

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 26, 2004 LB 1179

opposed nay. The question before the body is advancement of LB 1179 to E & R Initial. Record please, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 1179 does advance. As stated by...as stated by Speaker Bromm, the next agenda item is a reconsideration motion offered by Senator Chambers. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to reconsider the vote to confirm the appointment of Debra McDowell to the Environmental Quality Council. (Legislative Journal page 758.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your motion to reconsider the motion taken.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the first thing I want to make crystal-clear is that this motion is not an allegation or a charge or a suggestion that the person we voted to confirm for a position on that environmental quality board is a wrongdoer. That is not the purpose of this motion. The firm for which she works is the subject of a criminal investigation. It's an ethanol plant. Had the Legislature known this, perhaps there would not have been a vote taken at all. But we're at the situation where we did vote to confirm and what this motion would do, if we adopt it, is to put us back in the position we would have been had no vote been taken at all. I would not then offer a follow-up motion to reject this offer. It would leave everything open so that additional information could be acquired and a determination could be made whether, because of her connection with this operation, her judgment, her objectivity may be affected thereby. It is a matter which is in the public domain, because articles have been written about it, and I just believe that the Legislature, for its own integrity, should be placed in a position to further consider this matter. I'm going to take some of the steam out of Senator Schrock's sails. He is flagellating...I better change that, because some people think that's a bad word (laugh) or something that's not allowed. He is whipping himself,